



**Town of Griffith Indiana 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan  
2017-2021**

**A Comprehensive Master Plan by the Griffith Park Board and the Griffith Parks  
and Recreation Department**

**Griffith Parks and Recreation  
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## **Definition of the Planning Area**

The planning area for the Town of Griffith Parks and Recreation Department (GPRD) will focus on all parks and paths listed in the facility inventory.

## **Goals of the Plan**

After many discussions, the GPRD and the Park Board have agreed on the following goals for the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan:

- Gather feedback and input from the citizens of Griffith and report those findings in an accurate manner
- Collaborate with the Town Council and Neighborhood Spotlight Quality of Life initiative to ensure common goals are achieved.
- Use national recreational standards, combined with a careful needs analysis to create new priorities and revise current priorities for parks and recreation in the town.
- Create a plan that is dynamic and provides pertinent, useful information and guidance for the next five years in Griffith.
- Present the plan and gain acceptance within the Griffith community.
- Submit the master plan to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Outdoor Recreation, adhering to the required timeframe.
- Receive approval from the IDNR for eligibility for application for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant programs.
- Use this plan as a springboard to apply for all applicable grants.

## **The Park Board/Department**

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Griffith Park and Recreation Department is: “To provide a superior recreation and park experience to all members of the Griffith community, creating a better quality of life, access to the outdoors, and opportunity for play of all kinds for all ages and activities.”

### **Vision Statement**

“Our beautiful, well-maintained parks and recreational facilities, children’s playgrounds, walkable bike trails and landscaped streets are decorated with seasonal and public art. These open spaces and public venues provide attractive platforms for a variety of popular outdoor festivals, markets, cultural events, youth sports, child’s play, and facilitated community programs, offering conversational and social opportunities for everyone that is part of or visiting our “neighborhood”.

### The Park Board

The Park Board was first created in accordance to the requirements of Indiana Code 36-10-3. Griffith has a four member board that serves staggered four year terms. The current Griffith Park Board is:

Tim Diamond, President

Term End Date: 12/31/2018

John Dudliceck, Treasurer

Term End Date: 12/31/2016

Vacant Position

Term End Date: 12/31/2019

Scott Muffett, Board

Term End Date: 12/31/2017

Leah Dumezich, School Board Liaison

### The Park Department

#### Park Office

Phone: 219-922-3078.

Website: <http://www.griffith.in.gov/portal/media-type/html/group/parks-and-recreation/page/default.psm1>

Email: [griffithparks@griffith.in.gov](mailto:griffithparks@griffith.in.gov)

#### Staff

Park Superintendent: Al Markut

Hired: 2012

#### Other Positions

The Griffith Parks and Recreation Department also employs 4 year-round-part time employees and approximately 6 seasonal part-time employees each year.

#### Volunteers

Imagine Griffith is an organization comprised of volunteers with a wide range of abilities. This group initiates many volunteer filled activities including but not limited to Neighborhood cleanup day; consisting of approximately 200 volunteers who spend 4-6 hours spring cleaning parks and walkways mid-May.

#### Facility Inventory

Griffith has an inventory of 9 parks and 1 bike trail, ranging in size from ¼ acre to 15 acres (approximately 42.3 acres total park land).

- Central Park

Central Park is centrally located in town on Broad and Pine Streets. The park is 15 acres in size and is very accessible. Central Park is the crown jewel of the Park System. The nature of the park is multi-use and is very family oriented. A war memorial is located in the southeast corner of the park. A number of benches are located throughout the park. Some of the benches were purchased in memorial of loved ones. Memorial bricks also line some of the park's walkways. A major construction project took place in 2002 which including the building of a new pavilion and reshaping of land around the northeast corner for better drainage. A large playground area with modern equipment lies in the southern section of the park and 2 sand volleyball courts lie in the northern section. Central bathroom facilities are located just west of the new park pavilion. The northwest and west central portions of the park are dedicated to three youth baseball fields. These fields include a little league field with basic dugouts and stands. The next field is also little league sized and is in the north central part of the park. It has lights, a combination concession stand, press box, storage building and score keeper area. Bleachers are available for onlookers. These fields are maintained by Griffith Little League. A third ball field is located in the northwest corner of the park. It is an adult sized field with lights, combination concession stand, press box and storage building. There are dugouts and the field is entirely fenced in. In between the two little league fields is a tree memorial area. In the southwest corner of the site an attractive landscaped area with more benches.

- South Park

South Park is located west of Broad St, south of Avenue D, and is 8.4 acres in size. The north two thirds of the site is owned by the town and includes a paved parking lot, Pavilion, newly remodeled playground, basketball courts, horseshoe pits and restrooms. The mid area is home to Griffith Pop Warner youth football and the spacious south end is home to Griffith Youth Soccer.

- Tot Park

Tot Park is situated on 3.6 acres of land along the east side of Indiana Street from Miller to Lake Streets, adjacent to the Senior Center. The playground, shelter and basketball court are open to the public.

- Cheever Park

Cheever Park covers 6.7 acres. This park is bordered by Pint St. on the north the backyards of homes on Elm St on the south, Elmer St on the east, and Wadsworth Elementary School on the west. This park has tennis and handball courts, 2 baseball fields, a small child play area, and a pavilion. Park has a public restroom facility.

- 39th Street Park

This quaint park covers .5 acres located at the intersection of Elmer and 39th Lane. Has playground equipment to serve nearby children.

- Woodland Park

The total acreage of this park is 4.6 acres. This park is bordered by Pine St on the north, vacant property

on the south, Heather Court on the west, and the backyards of homes on Rueth Drive on the east. A small parking lot is located on the north side of the park. A playground area is present on the property.

- Panther Park - a ½ acre lot adjacent to the bike path just of Columbia Ave. is a small patch of land for future use such as outdoor exercise park or healing garden.
- Franklin Fields – a 2.75 acre two softball fields in the center of town, Broad Street and Lake St. Home to Girls Youth Softball Spring and Fall leagues.
- Franklin Courts – a ¼ acre corner of Broad St. and Miller consists of two fences in legendary basketball courts known throughout the region as Griffith Courts.
- Bike Trail  
Griffith has installed a bike path that runs from 45th St south to Colfax. This path provides a place for people to walk, bike, run and dog walk.

#### Current Programs

Griffith Parks and Recreation has turned over programs to other entities in town. The town now has a YMCA with an activity director and other staff to run youth and adult actives. The partnership between the Y and Parks is strong creating great outdoor activities in the parks such as Yoga, sand volleyball and co-ed softball.

The parks are also utilized for town events, including Friday night Central Market, NWI Symphony, movies, Park full of art, Boy scout harvest fest and campout, Octoberfest and Winterfest. All of these events currently occur at Central Park due to it being the center point of town with a high quality pavilion, restrooms and play area. The events are all great community togetherness events bringing awareness to park amenities and attraction to park use and pavilion rentals.

#### Budget

The Griffith Parks Department is issued an annual appropriation. Due to the budget amount the GPD does a very good job of spending their budget very judiciously. Property tax caps have and will continue to have an effect on the budget. Donations are also received from individuals and organizations which help to service our local parks.

The Griffith Parks and Recreation Department appropriated budget for the past 5 years is listed below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Appropriated Budget</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$258,475.00</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>\$260,900.00</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>\$270,000.00</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>\$276,166.00</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>\$295,624.00</b>

## **Natural Features and Landscape**

### **Topography**

The Town of Griffith is located in the Calumet Lacustrine Plain of former glacial Lake Chicago. This plain is characterized by three ancient beaches that extended southward from Lake Michigan for approximately 9 miles along the eastern boundary of Lake County and approximately 13 miles along the western boundary. The three beaches step upward in the southern direction from the Lake. The boundary between the second and third ancient beach is marked by Ridge Road at an elevation of 625' above mean sea level. To the north of Ridge Road, the town's topography slopes less steeply downward towards the Cady Marsh Ditch which serves as the principal drain for the town south of Ridge Road. South of the Cady marsh Ditch, the topography of the land gently slopes upward. With the exception of the southernmost section of town where the topography is characterized by small sporadic knolls and hills, the topography rises and falls gently parallel to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

### **Geology/Soils**

According to the Soil Conservation Service's Soil Survey of Lake County Indiana, the two predominant soil Associations within the Town of Griffith are the Plainfield-Watseka Association and the Maumee-Bono-Warners Association. The Plainfield-Watseka Association contains moderately sloping to nearly level soils that are both excessively drained and somewhat poorly drained. The Maumee-Bono-Warners Association contains depressional and nearly level soils that are very poorly drained. The soil types in the Town of Griffith are the results of glacial deposits and glacial, glaciofluvial, shallow-water coastal and lake, wetland, and windblown sedimentation.

### **Forest Resources**

Griffith enjoys the presence of many different types of trees and with many of them being very mature trees, some parts of our parks benefit from the abundance of shade. Griffith parks could benefit from the addition of young trees and shrub plantings. The town would benefit from a Tree Commission to create a tree inventory and define and document our Tree Canopy. Members of Imaging Griffith may develop a subcommittee to address this need.

### **Water Resources**

There are not many water resources in Griffith. The Cady Marsh ditch runs east to west in the northern part of town. The Calumet River borders the north side of town

- The Cady Marsh Ditch is a waterway that flows from east to west. The Cady Marsh ditch helps in mitigating water from the north side of town. After a damaging flood in 2006, The Army Corp of Engineers has built an underground water mitigation tunnel that has its entrance in the ditch. Currently a project is occurring that is placing flood walls on each side of the ditch and the widening of this waterway will help in the mitigation of water.

The Calumet River flows east to west along the northernmost edge of the Town of Griffith.

## **Man-made, Historical and Cultural**

### **Transportation Links**

Griffith sits in an area that consists of many major roadways. I80/94 borders the town on the north side. Cline Ave runs north and south along the western edge of town. Colfax borders the town on the east side. Main Street is one of the most used roads that runs through the south side going east and west. The Griffith/Merrillville airport is a hub for private pilots and the Lake County Sheriff's Dept. The airport is in the southeast side of town.

## Industry in Griffith

Griffith remains a blue collar community made up of light to moderate size industry that continues to become more technical in nature as we attempt to attract more business to the community. With a small airport and industrial park we continue to look for opportunities to attract a more highly technical and sophisticated business environment. Downtown Griffith has blossomed the past 5 years with the addition of eclectic businesses including an award winning coffee shop, gourmet popcorn, pool hall, music store, micro breweries, deli, hair stylists and arcade. A revitalized bowling alley and YMCA have made the downtown area an attractive place for residents and visitors. The revitalized down town was rated 3<sup>rd</sup> best down town in the NWI Times survey and featured in Craine's Business article, "How to revitalize a down town"

## Cultural in Griffith

### **Arts**

Griffith has been and continues to be a supporter of the artistic community. Every July and September the Parks Dept plays host to the Park Full of Art Festival and the Boy Scouts Annual Festival. There is also a "Town Gardener" group as part of Imagine Griffith who create a new art theme each year and display the art throughout the town. This same group plans flowers at park sign entrances and in 40 planters that border Broad Street.

### **Music**

The town of Griffith hosts many different types of musical acts throughout the year. Central Market is an event held every Friday May-October in Central Park. The event has crafters and food vendors line the walk, local craft beer and wine under the pavilion with a small band to entertain. The town also hosts a 4 day music festival on Labor Day weekend. 5 blocks down Broad St. are blocked off for this major event.

### **Historical Society**

The Griffith Historical Society, founded in 1983, was empowered by a Griffith Town Council resolution to preserve the history of the town of Griffith. At that time, ownership and operation of the Depot Museum, saved from demolition two years earlier, was given to the Society by joint action of the Council and the Community Spirit Organization. In 1994, the Griffith Historical Society purchased the land adjacent to the Depot to create an Historical Park in tribute to Griffith's railroading past. The Griffith Historical Park was formally dedicated in May, 1995. The Park and Museum are open on Sundays, June through August, and for special tours. The Parks Dept assists in special events put on by the Historical Society conducted at the Historical Park.

### **Festivals**

During the year the town of Griffith hosts and event named Rock'N'Rails. This event features bands of many types of music as well as food and merchandise vendors. Oktoberfest and Winterfest are held in Central Park consisting of food, beverage and music.

## **Social and Economic Factors**

### **(From the 2010 US Census)**

Data gathered from: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

#### **Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights:**

##### *Population*

Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2015)

16893

Town of Griffith – Parks Department 5 – Year Plan (2017-2021)



Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (est.base) to July 1, 2015, (V2015)	-3.0
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	16893
<i>Age and Sex</i>	
Persons under 5 years, percent, April 1, 2010	6.5
Persons under 18 years, percent, April 1, 2010	24.3
Persons 65 years and over, percent, April 1, 2010	11.2
Female persons, percent, April 1, 2010	52.4
<i>Race and Hispanic Origin</i>	
White alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	75.8
Black or African American alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	16.9
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	0.3
Asian alone, percent, April 1, 2010 (a)	0.8
Two or More Races, percent, April 1, 2010	2.4
Hispanic or Latino, percent, April 1, 2010 (b)	13.3
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, April 1, 2010	67.8
<i>Population Characteristics</i>	
Veterans, 2010-2014	1033
Foreign born persons, percent, 2010-2014	5.3
<i>Housing</i>	
Housing units, April 1, 2010	7070
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2010-2014	65.9
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2010-2014	139500
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2010-2014	1266
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2010-2014	415
Median gross rent, 2010-2014	811
Building permits, 2015	X
<i>Families and Living Arrangements</i>	
Households, 2010-2014	6345
Persons per household, 2010-2014	2.64
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2010-2014	84.7
Language other than English spoken at home, % of persons age 5 years+, 2010-2014	9.9
<i>Education</i>	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2010-2014	90.5
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2010-2014	16.3
<i>Health</i>	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2010-2014	9.6
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	13.7
<i>Economy</i>	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2010-2014	67.9
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2010-2014	63.8
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	21212
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	115731
Total retail sales per capita, 2012 (c)	6919
<i>Transportation</i>	
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2010-2014	25.7

### *Income and Poverty*

Median household income (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	52800
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2014 dollars), 2010-2014	24824
Persons in poverty, percent	12.0
Businesses	
All firms, 2012	1383
Men-owned firms, 2012	760
Women-owned firms, 2012	451
Minority-owned firms, 2012	342
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	998
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	82
Nonveteran-owned firms, 2012	1194
Geography	
Population per square mile, 2010	2184.5
Land area in square miles, 2010	7.73

Griffith has evolved leaps and bounds since the 2010 census as we were featured in Crain's Business on an article, "How to revitalize a down town." By reviewing the down town street and attracting new businesses, Griffith is a growing area attracting young families. If this trend continues the Parks Department will need to expand. More parks should be targeted on the north end of town; and operational budget will need to expand to manage the growth.

## **Accessibility and Universal Design**

### **Statement of Accessibility for Griffith Parks and Recreation**

"The Griffith Parks Department makes it a part of our mandate to provide reasonable modification under the law for people with disabilities to all of our programs, activities, and services. We strive to provide access for people with physical and mental disabilities. "

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act requires that local governments with over 50 employees designate at least one individual to act as an ADA compliance coordinator for the entire government unit. The Town of Griffith ADA compliance coordinator is Steve McDermott. Any person or persons who have complaints, grievances, or comments related to accessibility may contact Mr. McDermott at Town Hall – 219-924-7500.

### **Current Accessibility**

Griffith has accessible walkways, and picnic shelters. Progress on accessibility issues in Griffith have been hampered over the years by a lack of funding. Sidewalks and walk ways have decayed over the years and are in need of repair/replacement. A recent bond issue will address some of these areas but not all. Strategic direction is necessary for a sidewalk refresh plan.

#### Proposed Accessibility

Griffith has made the park bathrooms ADA accessible. South park playground is also ADA accessible with Central Park planned for a playground replacement with ADA access Q2 2017. Broken sidewalks and walk ways are unpassable in some areas, thus repaving them will need to be a priority over the next 5 years. Enhancement to the parks will be publicized via town newsletter, e newsletter, social media and website.

### Public Participation

The Griffith Park Board recognizes our mission of service provision to this community. The best way for us to provide service to the community is to ask what their needs, opinions, and preferences are, and to apply that information to all of our future planning. For this master plan, we used various methods of public input:

#### Public Meeting

The Griffith Park Board holds meeting open to the public the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. The board provides update on park related activity and town residents have an opportunity to voice any concerns related to the parks or bike path.

A Facebook page consisting of over 1,500 follows is also a venue to share updates and receive feedback.

Neighborhood Spotlight QOLP also meets to update on progress of all sub committees. Neighborhood Spotlight (NS) is a grant program from the Legacy Foundation to build a Quality of Life plan for the enhancement of Lake County towns. NS has a strategic committee that started with interviews of 200-300 residents to create a SWOT analysis. This followed by creating 4 task forces to address a QOLP. Task forces of Parks Infrastructure; Communication; Business Development; and Marketing. The President of the Park Board is leading the Parks Infrastructure task force to ensure all initiatives are moving together in the same direction.

#### Park Assessment Survey

The Griffith Park Board created an electronic survey for distribution throughout the community. This method was accomplished by including the survey link in with the monthly water bills, e-newsletter, Facebook, and Mansard Apartment newsletter. The survey contained 13 questions which covered current park(s) being utilized, how often parks are being utilized, types of activities, pavilion rentals, future spending, recommended types of improvements, ages of people using the parks, and how long those citizens have lived in Griffith. (Survey is attached in the rear of this document). The survey was open June and July 2016 with 349 responses

### Needs Analysis

Since the Griffith Park Board is developing this master plan in house, we are using a simplified issue analysis method of performing the required needs analysis. This analysis tallied results from both methods of public input (Survey/QOLP) and the park board to identified common themes from those methods and condensed those themes into underlying action items. The action items were placed in a priority order based on financial and other constraints, then turned into

a coherent priority and action plan. A third party planning and engineering firm will be engaged to help define costs and create Requests for Information (RFI) documents where necessary. The firm will focus on defining exact requirements and costs for each of the assessments items table below. For larger projects requiring contractors, the firm will create and distribute Request for Information (RFI) to ensure each project is properly quoted.

#### Board Assessment

A special meeting of the Parks Board September 2016 consisted of a site to site visit of each park to assess needs to enhance and optimize each property. The Planning and Engineering firm will help define scope and cost of the assessment needs enhancement list. The assessment is as follow:

Central Park	Woodlawn Park	Cheever park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blacktop around ball fields</li> <li>• Repair/replace ball field fences</li> <li>• Drain tile at baseball fields.</li> <li>• Replace dugouts</li> <li>• Volleyball drainage</li> <li>• Drinking fountain repair</li> <li>• New playground equipment</li> <li>• Playground soft surface</li> <li>• Additional benches</li> <li>• Trash can replacements</li> <li>• Water mister feature</li> <li>• Scoreboard repair/replacement</li> <li>• Additional picnic tables</li> <li>• Portable Ice rink</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Soft surface Playground</li> <li>• Bathrooms</li> <li>• Drinking fountain</li> <li>• Replace some playground equipment</li> <li>• Frisbee golf</li> <li>• Repave lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint/replace softball fence</li> <li>• Repave walking path (widen a path to pavilion)</li> <li>• Repave dugouts</li> <li>• Replace pavilion with roof without crossbeams</li> <li>• Remove kiddy park and fence</li> <li>• Remove handball wall</li> <li>• Repave and restripe tennis courts</li> <li>• Repave handball court for Skate park</li> <li>• Replace tennis court fence</li> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Install security cameras</li> </ul>
Tot Park	South Park	39 <sup>th</sup> Street Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New pavilion</li> <li>• New playground equipment</li> <li>• Soft surface playground</li> <li>• Repave basketball court</li> <li>• Benches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pop warner lights</li> <li>• Concession/storage/restroom/camera building</li> <li>• Walking bridge over water area between soccer and football</li> <li>• Benches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace playground equipment</li> <li>• Soft surface</li> </ul>
Panther Park	Bike Trail	Franklin Fields
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Drinking fountain/fill station</li> <li>• Outdoor exercise equipment</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Security cameras</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches</li> <li>• Trees</li> <li>• Drinking fountain</li> <li>• Police phone</li> <li>• Parking lot paving</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation System</li> <li>• Electrical upgrades</li> <li>• Lighting Upgrades</li> </ul>

## Public Survey

As a result of the Parks Survey, the QOLP Parks Infrastructure and recreation subcommittee identified 5 Goals to address over the next five years. Over the next 5 years the QOLP will focus on these goals while the Parks Department focuses on major capital improvements and sustainability of the operational budget to manage the capital enhancements.

The QOLP Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Improve perception of safety on bike trails and in public parks, measured by a 50% decrease in safety concerns identified on the Parks and Recreation survey by December 2019.

Goal 2: Develop and implement a series of (5) new Resident Recreational Activity Programs by the end of 2021 to help build the activity resources of the Parks and Recreation Department. (Work in conjunction with the local YMCA, Town Activities Director and Public Library to continually evaluate overlap / maximization of total available activity resources for the town)

Goal 3: Develop and implement a Parks and Recreation 5 year Strategic Plan to enhance and continually restore the parks infrastructure at a 75% community acceptance level .

Goal 4: Develop and implement a Parks & Recreation Sports Revitalization Program to increase Griffith youth sports by 20%

Goal 5: Development & implement a Parks & Trails Beautification (internal Tree Commission) Plan over the next 5 years to maintain and develop the growth of trees and flowers and the placement of public art within the Town's Parks and on its Bike Trails.

## Priorities and Action Schedule

Setting the priorities for the enhancement assessment list due to our needs exceeds our budget. Capital projects will begin with immediate needs for outer baseball field repaving and the renovation of the Central Park Playground that will install rubberized soft surface and handicap accessible equipment.

## Transition into the New Plan

During the transition into this plan, the Griffith Park Department will concentrate on fundraising and using alternative methods.

## Funding foundation

- Municipal bonds
  - o A \$600,000 bond has been issued to make capital improvements to the Parks.
- Griffith Parks Fund of the Legacy Foundation
  - o A Fund has been established through Legacy to allow Charitable tax deductible donations.
- Pavilion fees
- T-mobile tower lease at Cheever Park
- Grants (DNR, Federal, State, Foundation, Non-profit, etc)

- Neighborhood Spotlight along with the Legacy Foundation Grants for phase 2 of the QOLP
- Property maintenance
  - o Vacant properties who receive code violations are subject to lawn maintenance feeds at \$75/hr

Fundraising will be critical; each of the action plan elements depends on having adequate available funds to create it. The residents of Griffith have provided input into what they want from the parks and recreation department for the next 5 years; now it is time to figure out a way to pay for it. One important consideration of the fundraising process is the old truism: “It takes money to make money.” This is particularly true of the grant application process. Most grants have some variety of ‘match’, which requires that the grant recipient provide a required percentage of the total cost of the grant funded project. As an example, the Land and Water Conservation Fund provides a 50% reimbursement of the costs of approved projects, which means that Griffith must raise or allocate in advance the needed funds for the projects we wish to build under this or any grant. With the bond issue these grants are now obtainable. 50/50 grants combined with the bond funds will help us stretch the bond funds to make more improvements.

Park enhancements will need to be reviewed carefully to ensure they don’t take on too much operational cost. The town Tax levy for Parks is limited and has little room to take on additional maintenance. Opportunities to spend capital dollars to eliminate operational expense will be favorable.

### Public Presentation of Plan

The town is currently working under a Legacy Foundation Neighborhood Spotlight grant. This \$50,000 grant is for the creation of a Quality of Life Plan (QOLP). The QOLP is broken up into 4 sub groups for the development of Goals and Action plans. One of the sub groups is Park Infrastructure and Recreation, which is lead by the Parks and Recreation Board President. The creation and execution of this plan is one of the goals and will be part of the presentation for Neighborhood Spotlight. Legacy will have more opportunities to execute the QOLP over the next 5 years.

The Master Plan will also be presented at a Parks & Recreation Board meeting and be posted on the Town website for the duration of the plan.

### Board Resolution Adoption Plan

### Attachments

- (A) Public comment survey
- (B) Project list/costs
-